

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A system for providing self-installing
2 software components for network service execution, comprising:
3 a basic communication framework established with a service host system
4 executing a network service software component to provide a network service;
5 a checking mechanism to determine availability of the network service
6 software component and to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment
7 through the service host system; ~~[[and]]~~
8 a helper mechanism to execute a code bundle providing the network
9 service software component through the service host system logically grouped
10 with installation instructions for the network service software ~~component~~;
11 component; and
12 a viral mechanism to implement the network service software component
13 in the code bundle to offer functionality equivalent to the network service
14 provided by the service host system.
- 1 2. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 a set of ~~well-known methods~~ standardized method definitions provided
4 through a public interface defined on the network service software component.
- 1 3. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 2, wherein the
2 ~~well-known methods~~ standardized method definitions are selected from the group
3 comprising at least one of an availability method, environment verification
4 method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

- 1 4. (original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the network
2 service software component is updated through the service host system.
- 1 5. (original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 an installation predicate object defined on the service host system to verify
3 that the runtime environment satisfies prerequisites necessary to install and
4 execute the network service software component.
- 1 6. (original) A system according to Claim 5, wherein the installation
2 predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution
3 within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.
- 1 7. (original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a helper object defined on the service host system to locate and obtain
3 copies of one or more of the network service software components necessary to
4 satisfy one or more of the prerequisites.
- 1 8. (original) A system according to Claim 7, wherein the helper
2 object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a
3 managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.
- 1 9. (original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 an update object defined on the service host system to identify, retrieve
3 and install any updates to the network service software component.
- 1 10. (original) A system according to Claim 9, wherein the update
2 object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a
3 managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.
- 1 11. (canceled).
- 1 12. (canceled).

1 13. (original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the basic
2 communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

1 14. (currently amended) A method for providing self-installing
2 software components for network service execution, comprising:
3 establishing a basic communication framework with a service host system
4 executing a network service software component to provide a network service;
5 determining availability of the network service software component and
6 verifying prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host
7 system; [[and]]
8 executing a code bundle providing the network service software
9 component through the service host system logically grouped with installation
10 instructions for the network service software ~~component~~ component; and
11 implementing the network service software component in the code bundle
12 to offer functionality equivalent to the network service provided by the service
13 host system.

1 15. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 14, further
2 comprising:
3 specifying a set of ~~well-known methods~~ standardized method definitions
4 provided through a public interface defined on the network service software
5 component.

1 16. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 defining the ~~well-known methods~~ standardized method definitions
4 selected from the group comprising at least one of an availability method,
5 environment verification method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

1 17. (original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:
2 updating the network service software component through the service host
3 system.

1 18. (original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:
2 defining an installation predicate object on the service host system to
3 verify that the runtime environment satisfies prerequisites necessary to install and
4 execute the network service software component.

1 19. (original) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the
2 installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for
3 execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1 20. (original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:
2 defining a helper object on the service host system to locate and obtain
3 copies of one or more of the network service software components necessary to
4 satisfy one or more of the prerequisites.

1 21. (original) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the helper
2 object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a
3 managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1 22. (original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:
2 defining an update object on the service host system to identify, retrieve
3 and install any updates to the network service software component.

1 23. (original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the update
2 object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a
3 managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1 24. (canceled).

1 25. (canceled).

1 26. (original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the basic
2 communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

1 27. (original) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for
2 performing the method according to Claim 14.

1 28. (currently amended) An apparatus for providing self-installing
2 software components for network service execution, comprising:

3 means for establishing a basic communication framework with a service
4 host system executing a network service software component to provide a
5 network service;

6 means for determining availability of the network service software
7 component and means for verifying prerequisites against a runtime environment
8 through the service host system; [[and]]

9 means for executing a code bundle providing the network service software
10 component through the service host system logically grouped with installation
11 instructions for the network service software component. component; and

12 means for implementing the network service software component in the
13 code bundle to offer functionality equivalent to the network service provided by
14 the service host system.